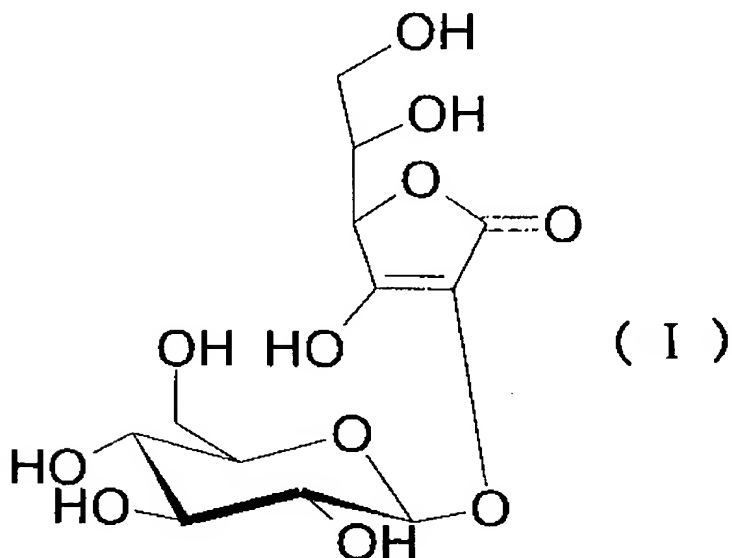


## Abstract

A composition for external use, comprising  
2-O-( $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the  
5 formula (I):



or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and  
a koji mold or a processed koji. The composition for external  
use is excellent in skin permeability, containing an ascorbic  
10 acid derivative which is excellent in stability, utilized  
persistently in the living body, and strong in antioxidant  
activity, and has little skin irritation.